

JOHNNY BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



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

RECEIVED  
AUG 21 2017  
BY: CHARLOTTE F. MARTIN, M.P.A.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**IN THE MATTER OF**

**GARRETT WOODS, PT**

**LICENSE NO. 09375**

**CONSENT ORDER**

**NUMBER: 2017-I-021**

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Mr. Garrett Woods, PT, ("Mr. Woods" or "Respondent") initially came to the attention of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board ("LPTB" or "Board") in 2016 when he applied for a physical therapy license with the Board. In his application for a physical therapy license, Mr. Woods disclosed that he had been in recovery from alcohol addiction for eight (8) years. Following an evaluation, Mr. Woods was granted a physical therapy license with restrictions. In part, Mr. Woods agreed to abstain from alcohol and controlled dangerous substances and to submit to random drug tests through June 30, 2017 as a condition of licensure. On or about June 28, 2017 the Board received a complaint therein alleging that Respondent was arrested for theft of goods, possession of illegal drugs, and possession of drug paraphernalia. On June 30, 2017 an investigative committee of the Board requested that Respondent submit to a drug test by both hair and urine. Respondent refused to submit to the urine test, but did submit to the hair test. Respondent tested positive for amphetamines, specifically methamphetamines. Upon notice through counsel of record of the positive drug test, Mr. Woods voluntarily entered into an *Agreement to Abstain from the Practice of Physical Therapy*. Thereafter an Investigative Committee requested that Mr. Woods participate in an Informal Conference. Mr. Woods complied with the request. Following discussion at the Informal Conference, Mr. Woods was offered and accepted the following consent order.

### **FACTUAL BASIS FOR CONSENT ORDER**

1. Respondent applied for a physical therapy license with the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board in March, 2016. In his application Mr. Wood's answered question number fourteen (14) affirmatively thereby notifying the Board that he had been charged with a felony criminal offense. Thereafter, as requested by the Board, Mr. Woods submitted to a background check, an evaluation, and underwent a mental health evaluation. Mr. Woods

also submitted numerous letters of recommendations from physical therapy school professors and licensed physical therapists.

2. Furthermore, in the course and scope of the application process, Mr. Woods disclosed that he was in recovery from alcohol addiction since 2008 and had multiple arrests and convictions since 1997, including, but not limited to, simple battery conviction and multiple DWI convictions.
3. Per the recommendation of the professional who conducted Mr. Woods' mental health evaluation, Mr. Woods' was required to, in part, abstain from alcohol and controlled dangerous substances, to submit to random drug tests, and to provide quarterly employee evaluations completed by his employer or supervisor to the Board through June 30, 2017 as a condition of licensure.
4. Respondent received his physical therapy license, number 09375, with restrictions on or about May 30, 2016.
5. In June, 2017 the Board contacted Mr. Woods regarding his failure to submit his quarterly employee review as required. Mr. Woods was given a deadline of July 15, 2017 to comply.
6. Shortly thereafter, on or about June 28, 2017 the Board received a complaint therein alleging that Respondent was arrested for theft of goods, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia.
7. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Board created an Investigative Committee in accordance with Rule 123 which included Charlotte Martin, Board Executive Director; Donald Cassano, investigating Board member; and Courtney Newton, Board attorney.
8. On June 29, 2017 the Investigative Committee requested that Respondent submit to a drug test by both hair and urine. Respondent submitted to the hair test, but refused to submit to the urine test.
9. On July 6, 2017 the Investigative Committee received Mr. Woods test results. Test results were positive for amphetamines, specifically methamphetamines.
10. In the course and scope of the investigation, witnesses were interviewed and the Investigating Committee learned that Mr. Woods had been terminated in early May from the facility listed as his employer on file with the Board. At no time did Mr. Woods notify the Board of the change in his employment status or discuss his termination when asked for employee review.
11. Upon notice through counsel of record of the positive drug test, Mr. Woods voluntarily entered into an *Agreement to Abstain from the Practice of Physical Therapy*.
12. Thereafter on July 11, 2017, the Investigative Committee requested that Mr. Woods

participate in an informal conference at the Board office in Alexandria, LA.

13. On July 18, 2017, Mr. Woods participated in the Informal Conference. Those in attendance were Mr. Wood; Charlotte Martin, Executive Director; Don Cassano, investigating Board member; Courtney Newton, complaint counsel, and William L. Goode, Mr. Wood's attorney.
14. During the Informal Conference Mr. Wood's confessed that he had begun using Methamphetamines in February, 2017. He stated his usage of methamphetamine quickly went from recreational usage to addiction, and that he is currently addicted to methamphetamines. Mr. Woods recognized his need to participate in an inpatient recovery program to treat his addiction and that continued monitoring is a necessary component to his recovery.
15. Mr. Woods also admitted that he worked as a physical therapist treating patients while he was under the influence of methamphetamine between February, 2017 and the date he signed his *Agreement to Abstain*, July 7, 2017.
16. Following discussion and in the presence of his attorney, Mr. Woods was offered a consent order.

## **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 his practice of physical therapy:

- A. The Board has the authority to suspend or revoke a professional license which it has issued, or place probationary conditions upon such license, upon proof that the licensee has practiced physical therapy in violation of the Practice Act, Board Rules, or standards of practice. La. R.S. 37:2420A(1) and Board Rule §343.
- B. In refusing to submit to a urine drug test as requested by the Executive Director of the Board, Respondent violated Rule § 345.B.(12).
- C. In failing to submit to a drug test within six (6) hours of request by the Board Executive Director, Respondent violated Rule § 351.C.
- D. In using methamphetamines, Mr. Woods violated La. R.S. 37:2420A(5), "[b]een habitually intemperate", as further defined by Board Rule 351A(2), "the ingestion, self administration, or other use of legally controlled substances or medications which affect the central nervous system, other than pursuant to and used in accordance with a lawful prescription and/or medical advice."

- E. By engaging in the use of illegal drugs while employed as a physical therapist Mr. Woods engaged in unprofessional conduct in violation of La. R.S. 37:2420 as further defined as Board Rule § 345;
- F. Because he engaged in the practice of physical therapy while under the influence of methamphetamine, Respondent violated Board Rule § 373.A.2.a.;
- G. By failing to report a change in business address and telephone number within thirty (30) days of such change, Respondent is in violation of La. R.S. 37:2415.B., as further defined by Rule § 317.A. and § 345.13;
- H. When Mr. Woods failed to communicate clearly and honestly with the members of the Investigative Committee regarding his employment termination and addiction relapse, Mr. Woods violated La. R.S. 37:2420, as further defined by Board Rule § 345.B.1;

## **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 shall, at his own expense, participate in the in-patient drug rehabilitation program at Victory Addiction Recovery Center, 111 Liberty Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70508. The length of Respondent's in-patient drug rehabilitation program shall be a minimum of forty-five (45) days. During this time Respondent shall receive an substance abuse evaluation. Respondent shall cooperate fully with the evaluation and in-patient treatment and will provide the Board with access to information, including but not limited to signing all releases and authorizations to enable the Board or its designated agent to obtain reports, evaluation and test results. Respondent shall comply with and successfully fulfill all requirements and treatment recommendations;
2. Respondent's physical therapy license is suspended. Respondent's physical therapy license shall remain suspended for a minimum period of six (6) months beginning on the date of successful completion of the Board approved in-patient drug rehabilitation program. Respondent shall establish six (6) consecutive months sobriety prior to the conclusion of the suspension period. Failure to establish continuous sobriety shall result in an extension of the suspension period until such compliance is established. Respondent shall submit to the Board Executive Director in writing not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to completion of suspension period a request for a letter from the Board formally acknowledging the close of the suspension period. Respondent's suspension period concludes upon receipt by respondent of the Board a letter acknowledging the close of the suspension period;

3. Upon the conclusion of the suspension period, Respondent's physical therapy license is on probation for a minimum period of five (5) years from the date the suspension period concludes as specified in the formal letter of closure provided to the Respondent in accordance with Paragraph "2". Respondent shall submit to the Board Executive Director in writing not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to completion of 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 a letter acknowledging the close of the probationary period;
4. For as long as Respondent holds a license, Respondent shall not seek or accept work in a home health. Furthermore, Respondent shall submit to the Board Executive Director a request for approval of any work setting prior to accepting work. Once the setting is approved, Respondent shall notify the Executive Director in writing of all employment and/or contractual service arrangements which he has to work as a physical therapist and shall update the Executive Director in writing within five (5) calendar days of any and all changes in such arrangements.
5. For as long as Respondent holds a license, 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 by the deadline provided for payment following each visit;
6. For as long as Respondent holds a license, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent 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 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;
7. The five (5) 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 *twenty (20) hours* each week as such. If Respondent ceases to be regularly employed as a physical therapist in Louisiana, he shall notify the Executive Director in writing within *five (5) 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 *five (5) calendar days* of his return to practice;

8. In addition the thirty (30) hours of board-approved continuing education courses or activities required in the biennial renewal period under Rule §194, during each of the minimum six (6) month suspension and five (5) years of probation, Respondent shall complete an additional four (4) hours of continuing education courses in Ethics per renewal period. The Ethics courses shall be submitted in writing to the Board Executive Director for approval prior to taking the course. Respondent shall also attend one (1) live Jurisprudence Seminar per renewal period. Respondent shall provide documentation in the form of a course completion certificate to the Executive Director within five (5) calendar days of receipt of such documentation;
9. Respondent shall write an essay of no fewer than 750 words explaining how his conduct violated the Practice Act and Board Rules and what he has learned as a result of the disciplinary process. The essay shall be submitted to Board Executive Director no later than September 1, 2017.
10. Respondent shall pay the Board the sum of \$2,600.00 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 six (6) month suspension and five (5) year probationary periods. Failure to provide payment by the deadlines set forth in the written payment agreement may result in further disciplinary action by the Board;
11. During the entirety of the suspension and probation periods, Respondent shall abstain from the use and ingestion by any means of alcohol, including, but not limited to, foodstuffs, beverages, or toiletries containing alcohol; mood altering substances; any controlled substance as defined by Louisiana and federal laws; or any drugs requiring a prescription unless lawfully prescribed by an individual legally authorized to prescribe medications and knowledgeable of Respondent's substance abuse history. Respondent shall also abstain from foodstuffs containing poppy seeds, hemp products, herbal or health preparations containing derivatives of controlled substances, and all over-the-counter medications, unless authorized in writing by a physician knowledgeable of Respondent's substance abuse history, except plain aspirin, plain acetaminophen, or ibuprofen. If Respondent is prescribed or authorized in writing a mood altering substance, controlled substance, drug, or over-the-counter medication, or administered such by physician order, Respondent shall within five (5) calendar days of obtaining a new prescription, obtaining a medication refill, or being administered medication provide the following in writing to the Executive Director:
  - i. Documentation of the prescription or written authorization;
  - ii. Written explanation of the condition for which the medication is prescribed;
  - iii. Contact information for the prescribing or authorizing physician;
  - iv. Date prescription was filled or medication administered;
  - v. Quantity of medication received;
  - vi. Medication instructions;
  - vii. Names and contact information for the following:
    1. Prescribing/authorizing healthcare provider;

2. The pharmacy where the prescription has been filled, if applicable;
  3. The pharmacist filling the prescription, if applicable.
12. Respondent shall abstain from any and all opiate replacement therapies, including, but not limited to, Methadone and Buprenorphine;
  13. Within five (5) calendar days of Board approval of this Consent Order and during the entirety of the suspension and probation period, Respondent shall provide the Executive Director the name, telephone number, and address for all physicians or other healthcare providers who are providing treatment during his suspension and probationary period and a listing of all medication prescribed for any medical condition. Respondent shall inform any and all physicians or other healthcare providers who are treating him during his suspension and probationary period of his Consent Order, participation in the Recovering Physical Therapy Program, and ordered abstinence. In addition, Respondent shall request in writing that this information be included in his medical file. Respondent shall provide copies of all written requests to physicians or other healthcare providers within five (5) calendar days of Board approval of this Consent Order.
  14. By signing this document Respondent waives his physician-patient privilege with regard to the Board and its agents and authorizes his treating physician(s), mental health or substance abuse professionals, or any other persons providing care related to the course and scope of this Consent Order to provide information on diagnosis, treatment, and prescriptions.
  15. In the event that Respondent ingests alcohol, mood altering substances, any controlled dangerous substance as defined by Louisiana and federal laws, and/or any other substance specified in Paragraph "11" during the minimum six (6) month suspension and five (5) year probationary period, Respondent shall immediately cease practice, if applicable, and shall notify the Executive Director of the Board in writing within twenty-four (24) hours of ingestion;
  16. For as long as Respondent holds a license, Respondent shall participate in a board-approved drug and alcohol monitoring program and shall comply with all requests of the Board or its designated agent for observed random drug and/or alcohol tests. Respondent is responsible for the cost of all testing. If tested by any other entity at any time during the suspension or probationary period, Respondent shall authorize and direct said entity or individual to furnish the Board Executive Director with a copy of the results for all drug and/or alcohol tests within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the test results.
  17. For as long as Respondent holds a license, if any drug or alcohol test of Respondent results in a positive finding for alcohol, mood altering substance, controlled dangerous substance, and/or any substance specified in Paragraph "11" taken without a valid prescription or authorization in accordance with Paragraph "11", or medication utilized in opiate replacement therapy in accordance with Paragraph "12", Respondent's license shall automatically and summarily be suspended without further action by the Board, subject to Respondent's right to a full due process hearing before the Board within a reasonable time

period. It is the recommendation of the current members of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board that in the event of a positive drug screen that Mr. Wood's license be revoked;

18. For as long as Respondent holds a license, Respondent shall avoid all situations and environments where others are utilizing illegal substances. In the event that Respondent finds himself in a situation or environment where others are utilizing illegal substances, Respondent shall notify the Board Executive Director within twenty-four (24) hours of such occurrence;
19. Following successful completion of the in-patient drug rehabilitation program mandated in Paragraph "1", and during the suspension and probationary periods, Respondent shall comply with all recommendations of the rehabilitation program. Failure to comply with a recommendation of the rehabilitation program, incorporated herein *in extenso*, will be deemed a violation of this consent order. In addition to other recommendations deemed appropriate by the professional evaluator(s), such recommendations shall include the following for a duration and frequency as recommended by the professional evaluator(s):
  - a. Attend meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous of other recovery support programs approved by the Executive Director as directed, and provide documentation of such attendance on Board-provided forms to the Executive Director no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the month of meetings attendance. Forms may be submitted via FAX, mail or email attachment;
  - b. Individual counseling sessions with a Board approved substance abuse counseling professional. Respondent shall direct the approved substance abuse counseling professional to submit quarterly progress reports to the Board no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month in May, August, November, and February for the entirety of the suspension and probationary period.
20. For as long as Respondent holds a license, Respondent shall promptly comply, as directed, with the requests of the Board or its designated agent to obtain and provide to the Board Prescription Monitoring Program ("PMP") reports at his expense. Respondent shall provide the Executive Director of the Board with the PMP report within five (5) calendar days of request by the Board or its designated agent;
21. Respondent shall comply with Board Rule §363 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 Order, except Paragraph "10" 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;



22. Respondent shall meet with the Board, or with the Board's representative, whenever requested during the suspension and probationary period, and shall fully cooperate in providing information and documents requested by the Board, or the Board's representative;
23. 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 Order and within forty-eight (48) hours following any such change throughout the entirety of the suspension and probationary period. Respondent shall reply to Board emails and telephone calls within four (4) hours of such communication.
24. Respondent declares that, before signing this Consent Order, he is of sound mind and 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. Respondent sought the advice of counsel prior to entering into this Consent Agreement;
25. Respondent acknowledges that his failure to comply with any term of this Consent Order is a basis for immediate summary suspension of his license and for further disciplinary action by the Board;
26. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order only addresses the specific violations outlined above;
27. Respondent authorizes the Investigating Board Member, Donald Cassano, PT, and legal counsel assisting the Investigating Board Member, 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. 49:960 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 Order. Should the Board decline to approve this Consent 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;
28. 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, from further participation in hearings or resolution to these proceedings;

29. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order becomes effective only upon signature by the Board Chair; and
30. Respondent acknowledges that all communication 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 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.

  
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Garrett Woods, PT

SWORN TO and subscribed before me, Notary Public 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017  
Lafayette, Louisiana.

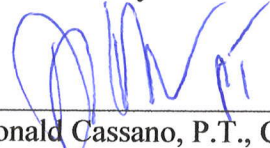


James O. Adcock, Jr.  
Notary Public  
Notary Number 15897  
Richland Parish, Louisiana

  
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Notary Public

AGREED AND ACCEPTED by official action of the Board, the 22 day of August,  
2017, at Lafayette, Louisiana.

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

  
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Donald Cassano, P.T., Chair