

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 KOESTLER
PTA LICENSE NO. A11898

COMPLAINT NUMBER
2024-I-022 c/w 2025-I-017

CONSENT ORDER

Christian Koestler (“Mr. Koestler” or “Respondent”) is a Physical Therapist Assistant (“PTA”), as evidenced by License No. A11898, 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. 2024-I-022 c/w 2025-I-017.

FACTUAL BASIS FOR CONSENT ORDER

1. Respondent received his Physical Therapist Assistant license, number A11898, on or about August 5, 2024.
2. On August 30, 2024, the Board received information regarding an August 25, 2024 arrest of Respondent for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. Respondent failed to report the arrest to the Board within seven (7) days of the arrest, as required by Board rule. As a result of the arrest and failure to report, the Board initiated a complaint against Respondent, identified as Complaint No. 2024-I-022 (“Complaint No. 2024-I-022”), and an investigative committee of the Board was formed to investigate the allegations of the complaint.

3. On September 3, 2024, Respondent 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. Respondent was directed therein to provide a written statement to the Board giving his view of the situation, explaining fully the circumstances leading to the arrest, as well as any certified documents directly from the court describing the conclusion of any arrest and/or criminal proceedings.
4. By letter dated September 21, 2024, and received by the Board on October 1, 2024, Respondent provided a personal statement to the Board, explaining the circumstances that led to his August 25, 2024 arrest.
5. The investigative committee determined that its investigation would remain open until the criminal matter was resolved.
6. On April 3, 2025, the Board received a written statement from Respondent, notifying the Board that he was involved in another incident on March 22, 2025, which resulted in criminal charges against him for negligent injury, reckless operation, DWI, and hit and run. As a result, the Board initiated a complaint against Respondent, identified as Complaint No. 2025-I-017 ("Complaint No. 2025-I-017"), and an investigative committee of the Board was formed to investigate the allegations of the complaint.
7. On April 15, 2025, Respondent 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. Respondent was directed therein to submit to an inpatient evaluation to address his current fitness and ability to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to the public.
8. From May 6, 2025 through May 8, 2025, Respondent submitted to an inpatient psychological and substance abuse evaluation at Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center ("Palmetto"), to address the issues raised by the investigative committee and the two arrests related to habitual intemperance within a seven-month period.
9. By letter dated May 16, 2025, the evaluation team at Palmetto provided the Board with a copy of the Respondent's evaluation report (the "Palmetto Evaluation"). The Palmetto Evaluation provides detailed information regarding Respondent's evaluation at Palmetto and the evaluation team's diagnostic impressions, conclusions, and recommendations, all as more fully set forth in the Palmetto Evaluation.
10. The Palmetto evaluation team concluded that Respondent was not fit to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety. The Palmetto evaluation team's recommendations are stated in the Palmetto Evaluation and include:
 - Sign and follow a five-year Louisiana Physical Therapy Board monitoring contract. Any violations of contract or positive drug or alcohol screens should result in further inpatient evaluation.

- 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.
 - Christian 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 an PT Board agreement and has met with his treating addictionist following treatment to determine fitness to return to duty.
 - He should contact you as soon as possible after this evaluation to receive your instructions.
11. Due to the findings of the Palmetto Evaluation, the investigative committee determined that Respondent should not practice physical therapy.
 12. On May 20, 2025, pending review and written approval of the Louisiana Department of Justice, Occupational Licensing Review Program (“OLRP”), the Board’s Executive Director signed an Order of Summary Suspension, suspending the license of Respondent to practice physical therapy and setting an administrative hearing before the Board set for June 18, 2025.
 13. On May 20, 2025, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:260, the Board submitted the Order of Summary Suspension to the OLRP for review and approval. On or about June 18, 2025, the OLRP approved the Order of Summary Suspension.
 14. On June 2, 2025, the Board notified Respondent of the issuance of the Order of Summary Suspension and the setting of hearing scheduled for June 18, 2025, on the Order of Summary Suspension.
 15. On June 4, 2025, Respondent requested that the June 18, 2025 hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension be continued.
 16. At its regularly scheduled board meeting on June 18, 2025, the Board considered and granted the request by Respondent to continue the hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension.
 17. On June 4, 2025, Respondent voluntarily admitted at Palmetto for inpatient substance abuse treatment.
 18. By letter dated July 18, 2025, Palmetto advised the Board that Respondent had successfully completed inpatient substance disorder treatment at Palmetto and would be transitioning to intensive outpatient treatment (the “Palmetto Report”).
 19. The Palmetto Report provides detailed information regarding Respondent’s inpatient treatment at Palmetto and the evaluation team’s diagnoses, conclusions, and recommendations, all as more fully set forth in the Palmetto Report.

20. The Palmetto evaluation team concluded that Respondent was not fit to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety. The Palmetto evaluation team's recommendations are stated in the Palmetto Report and include:

- Sign and follow a five-year Louisiana Physical Therapy Board monitoring contract. Any violations of contract or positive drug or alcohol screens should result in further inpatient evaluation.
- Participate in and complete an LPTB-approved IOP program after discharge from inpatient treatment. We recommend this IOP be performed through Palmetto IOP, Shreveport campus. This IOP is located at 820 Jordan Street, Suite #204, Shreveport, LA 71101.
- Attend AA meetings in accordance with current RNP policy and acquire an AA home group. We recommend a minimum of 90 AA meetings in the first 120 days after inpatient discharge from Palmetto, and then a minimum of three AA meetings per week for the duration of his monitoring contract.
- We recommend that Christian reside at Oxford House Sober Living for a minimum of six months. This house is located at 129 Kayla Street, Shreveport, LA 71105. He will immediately enter this home upon discharge from inpatient treatment.
- Initiate five contacts per week with his sponsor for the first 90 days upon discharge from Palmetto, then a minimum of two contacts per week for the duration of his monitoring contract.
- At the conclusion of IOP treatment, Christian should participate in weekly aftercare for one year (52 sessions) through a LPTB-approved center.
- At the conclusion of IOP treatment, Christian should attend weekly LPTB-RPT Professional Support Group meetings.
- Abstain from all addictive and abuseable substances including prescription, illicit, and over the counter.
- Christian is not ready to practice his profession with skill and safety until he has completed IOP treatment, has a continuing care plan in place, has signed a Louisiana Physical Therapy Board agreement and has met with his treating addictionist following IOP treatment to determine his fitness to return to duty.
- Christian should follow-up here at Palmetto at the conclusion of his IOP treatment.

21. A Notice of Hearing was signed on July 14, 2025, notifying Respondent that the hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension was continued and rescheduled to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on November 5, 2025.

22. On July 18, 2025, Respondent voluntarily transitioned to intensive outpatient treatment at Palmetto. He completed the intensive outpatient program on August 14, 2025.

23. By letter dated August 19, 2025, Palmetto advised the Board that Respondent had successfully completed intensive outpatient treatment at Palmetto (the "Palmetto Letter").
24. The Palmetto Letter provides information regarding Respondent's intensive outpatient treatment at Palmetto and the evaluation team's diagnoses, conclusions, and recommendations, all as more fully set forth in the Palmetto Letter.
25. The Palmetto evaluation team concluded that Respondent could be considered for return to practice as a physical therapy assistant with reasonable skill and safety, subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions. The Palmetto evaluation team's recommendations are stated in the Palmetto Letter and include:
- Sign and follow a five-year Louisiana Physical Therapy Board monitoring contract. Any violations of contract or positive drug or alcohol screens should result in further inpatient evaluation.
 - Attend AA meetings in accordance with current RNP policy and acquire an AA home group. We recommend a minimum of 90 AA meetings in the first 120 days after inpatient discharge from Palmetto, and then a minimum of three AA meetings per week for the duration of his monitoring contract.
 - We recommend that Christian reside at Oxford House Sober Living for a minimum of six months. This house is located at 129 Kayla Street, Shreveport, LA 71105. He is currently residing at this house.
 - Initiate five contacts per week with his sponsor for the first 90 days upon discharge from Palmetto, then a minimum of two contacts per week for the duration of his monitoring contract.
 - He should participate in weekly aftercare for one year (52 sessions) through an LPTB-approved center.
 - We recommend that Christian attend weekly LPTB-RPT Professional Support Group meetings.
 - Abstain from all addictive and abuseable substances including prescription, illicit, and over the counter.
 - Return to Palmetto for mirroring and attendance in Small Group and Professionals Group. We recommend that he return for this quarterly for the first year after discharge. Small group begins at 10:30 am each weekday and Professionals Group begins at 2:45pm on Wednesday and Thursday.
 - Make an appointment to see Dr. McCormick or Jennifer Garrett, FNP, quarterly for the first year following discharge, every six months for the second year and then once a year for the remainder of his contract. He will be responsible for scheduling these appointments.

- We believe that Christian could be considered for return to the practice of Physical Therapy Assistant with skill and safety as soon as his monitoring contract has been executed and he has received your permission for return to duty.

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 the 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)(5) - 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;
3. LAC 46:LIV §343(A) - The board, after due notice and hearing as set forth herein and in the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 and following, may refuse to issue a license or provisional license, or may suspend, revoke, or impose probationary conditions and/or restrictions on a licensee upon finding that the licensee has violated the Practice Act, or any of the Rules promulgated by the board;
4. LAC 46:LIV §343(B) - Board orders in [a] disciplinary proceeding may require the respondent to reimburse the board in accordance with R.S. 37:2405(B)(11);
5. LAC 46:LIV §343(C) - In placing a respondent on suspension or probation, the board may impose such additional terms, conditions and restrictions as it deems appropriate for the period of suspension or probation. The board shall specify in its order the exact duration of the suspension or probationary period. Upon finding that a respondent placed on probation has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the board order, the board may take such additional disciplinary action as it deems appropriate, following notice and hearing;
6. 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;
7. 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;

8. 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;
9. LAC 46:LIV §351(A)(1)(2) - As used in R.S. 37:2420.A (5) of the Practice Act, "habitually intemperate" means: (1) repeated excessive use or abuse of alcohol; or (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;
10. LAC 46:LIV §351(B) - As used in R.S. 37:2420.A of the Practice Act, the phrase "abused controlled dangerous substances as defined by federal or Louisiana law" means physiological or psychological dependence on any legally controlled substance or medication with a potential for inducing physiological or psychological dependence or tolerance;
11. LAC 46 LIV §365(A) - As authorized by R.S. 37:2420(A)(5), 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 a person has been habitually intemperate or abused controlled dangerous substances as defined by federal or Louisiana law;
12. LAC 46:LIV §379 (A) - In accordance with La. 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.

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. Upon his execution of a Recovering Physical Therapy Program ("RPTP") Participation Agreement, Respondent's Physical Therapist Assistant license shall be reinstated and placed on probation for a minimum of five (5) years. During the probationary period, Respondent shall participate in the RPTP and follow all terms and conditions set forth in the RPTP Participation Agreement;

2. 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 a letter from the Board acknowledging the close of the probationary period and a final exit interview with the Board to be scheduled by the Board Executive Director;
3. Respondent agrees to be personally responsible for all costs incurred in complying with the terms of this agreement, including, but not limited to therapy, assessments, evaluations, supervision, drug/alcohol screens and the monitoring and reporting thereof, medical care and treatment and reproduction of treatment or other records;
4. In addition to the costs listed in item 3, Respondent agrees to pay \$200/month for monitoring costs associated with the RPTP. Respondent will be invoiced monthly for the monitoring fee. Failure to pay the invoice in a timely manner will result in transferring the debt 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);
5. During the probationary period, the Board may make random unannounced monitoring visits to Respondent's work site. In the event of a monitoring visit, Respondent shall fully cooperate with the Board representative making the visit and Respondent 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 for expenses related to the monitoring visit as invoiced within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice;
6. During the probationary period, 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/she 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-year probation period shall be extended for any period of time in which Respondent is not employed as a physical therapist assistant within the State of Louisiana and regularly working 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 assistant 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 assistant within the State of Louisiana, he shall notify the Executive Director in writing within ten (10) calendar days of his return to practice;

8. Respondent shall pay the Board the sum of \$5693.93 in partial 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);
9. 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 Order, except Paragraph 8 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;
10. 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;
11. Respondent shall have reliable access to a computer, internet, and telephone. In accordance with Board Rule §385, Respondent shall provide to the Executive Director his 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 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 his preferred telephone number and/or email address immediately upon such change;
12. Respondent declares that, before signing this Consent 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. Further, he has had the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel in this matter and in the negotiation of this Consent Order;
13. Respondent acknowledges that his failure to comply with any term of this Consent Order is a basis for the immediate summary suspension of his license and for further disciplinary action by the Board;
14. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order only addresses the specific violations outlined above;
15. Respondent authorizes the Investigative Committee Board Members and legal counsel assisting the Investigating Board Members, 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, including in executive session and in his absence. 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

him, 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, 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;

16. 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;
17. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order becomes effective only upon signature by the Board Chair; and
18. 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, Christian Koestler, have read this Consent Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

Christian Koestler
CHRISTIAN KOESTLER

SWORN TO and subscribed before me, Notary Public this 28 day of August, 2025,
in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Notary Public



ROBERT W. KOVACS
Notary Public ID #53963
Commissioned for Life
Bossier Parish, Louisiana

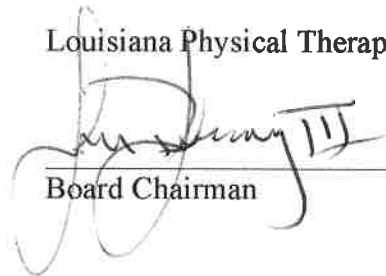
Notary Name printed (#318) 344-4884

SUBMITTED FOR BOARD APPROVAL BY:


Investigative Committee Board Member

AGREED AND ACCEPTED by official action of the Board, this 10th day of September, 2025, at Lafayette, Louisiana.

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board


Board Chairman

