
In the Matter of
LAURI CROCHET, P.T.A.
License No. A5132
Respondent

* **LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF**
* **PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS**
*
* Case Number 2002-I37

CONSENT ORDER

Respondent came to Board attention when the staff took note that she allowed her temporary permit as a physical therapist assistant to lapse after receiving notice of failure of the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination and before reapplying for a new temporary permit. Investigation confirmed an apparent lapse in permit status prior to Respondent's successful completion of NPATAE. Respondent was notified of these potential violations of law and of the Rules of the Board and requested to attend an informal conference on December 18, 2002 in Baton Rouge. This informal conference convened on that date with Board Case Manager Chuck Reynolds and Legal Counsel Glenn Ducote present.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent completed education requirements for and applied to take the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination. As provided by Board rule 153, Respondent was issued a temporary permit to practice as a PTA on July 17, 2002. Respondent took the NPATAE on August 29, 2002, and signed for receipt of her failing score on the examination on September 4, 2002, resulting in the expiration of her temporary permit on September 14, 2002. Subsequently, an application for a new temporary permit was received by the Board on September 27, 2002, bearing a postmark of September 26, 2002 from New Orleans. A second temporary permit was issued on September 30, 2002 and Respondent again took the examination and passed it. Her permanent license has been issued. During the entire period from July 17, 2002 until September 30, 2002, Respondent continued to provide physical therapist assistant services in the Clinic where she was employed, although from September 15 to September 30 she did not have a permit to do so.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. La. R.S. 37:2402A provides that, "No person shall practice, or in any way hold himself out, or designate himself, as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant unless duly licensed by the Board in accordance with this Chapter." R.S. 38:2404 provides for the issuance of temporary permits while awaiting examination results and for a second temporary permit while awaiting a second examination. Rule 153 of the Board establishes the procedures and time requirements for the issuance of temporary permits pending an initial examination. Paragraph C of Rule 153 provides:

C. A temporary permit issued under this Section shall expire upon: 1. The 10th day following the permit holder's receipt of written notice that he has failed to achieve a passing score on the licensing examination; or, 2. The failure of the permit holder to appear for and take the licensing examination for which he has registered.

Rule 155 deals with permits pending reexamination, and provides:

An applicant who possesses all of the qualifications for licensure prescribed by Sec. 107 of this Chapter . . . who has once failed the licensing examination administered by the Board, and who has applied to the board within 10 days of receipt of written notice and completed all requirements for examination shall be issued a new temporary permit to be effective for 60 days. [Emphasis added.]

2. Board Rule 335 authorizes disciplinary actions regarding licensees to be made by consent between the Board and the Respondent.

DECISION

Pursuant to the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, Respondent and the Board, by vote of quorum, agree as follows:

A. Respondent is reprimanded for her failure to timely request a new temporary permit pending reexamination.

B. To help defray legal and other administrative expenses related to complaint investigation and establishment of this Consent Order, Respondent shall pay to the Board the sum of \$250 by February 28, 2003.

C. The Board is authorized to provide a copy of this Consent Order to Respondent's employer, Morella Physical Therapy in Morgan City, to provide notice of Respondent's non-licensed status during the period from September 15 to September 30, 2002.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED on this 4 day of February, 2003.

Lauri Crochet, P.T.A.
Lauri Crochet, P.T.A. Lic #A5132

AGREED AND ACCEPTED by official action of the Board, the 19th day of December, 2002,
at Lafayette, Louisiana.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

Pat Adams, P.T., Chair