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FILED

DEC 04 2024

New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy

By: Daniel Evan Leef Hewitt Deputy Attorney General (609) 696-5364 Attorney ID No.: 243112017

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

DANNY O. STEFFENS, PT License No.40QA01000100

TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL THERAPY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners ("Board") upon information that Danny O. Steffens, PT ("Respondent") engaged in a sexual relationship with Patient #1 and made inappropriate comments to Patient #2.1

¹ The patients are being identified as Patient #1 and Patient #2 to protect their identities. Both patients' identities are known to Respondent.

On October 22, 2024, Respondent appeared before the Board for an investigative inquiry to answer questions regarding the allegations pertaining to Patient #1 and Patient #2.

Respondent admitted that he had a sexual relationship with Patient #1 while she was his patient. Respondent admits that he had multiple sexual encounters with Patient #1 and sent her text messages that were sexual in nature, as well as multiple explicit photographs of himself. Respondent testified that he does not remember whether he made inappropriate comments to Patient #2.

The conduct that Respondent admitted to as to Patient #1, and is alleged to have engaged in as to Patient #2, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in gross negligence, gross malpractice which damaged or endangered the life, health, welfare, safety or property of any person in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c); engaged in repeated acts of negligence and malpractice in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d); engaged in professional or occupational misconduct as may be determined by the Board in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e); and has failed to comply with the provisions of any act or regulation administered by the Board in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) (specifically, Respondent violated N.J.A.C. 13:39A-3.10 when he engaged in a sexual relationship with a patient). Respondent acknowledging the conducted described

above, and with consideration of his health, seeks to retire his license.

The parties being desirous of resolving this matter without the necessity of further proceedings, and it appearing that Respondent has read the terms of the within Final Consent Order and understands their meaning and effect and consents to be bound by same and has availed himself of the advice of counsel, and the Board being satisfied that entry of the within Order adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and that good cause exists to support entry of the within Order:

IT IS, THEREFORE, ON THIS 4th DAY OF <u>December</u>, 2024, ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

- 1. Respondent, Danny O. Steffens, PT, immediately retires his license to practice physical therapy in the State of New Jersey, with such retirement to be deemed a permanent revocation. Such revocation shall be with prejudice and Respondent shall not reapply for his license to practice physical therapy at any future time.
- 2. Respondent shall, contemporaneously with the signing of this Final Consent Order, forward his license to Executive Director Lisa Tadeo, P.O. Box 45014, Newark, New Jersey, 07101.

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- 3. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding himself out as a physical therapist in the State of New Jersey and shall refrain from the practice of physical therapy in the State of New Jersey.
- 4. Respondent shall not enter the premises where he formerly practiced physical therapy during business hours when patients may be present.
- 5. The entry of the within Final Consent Order is without prejudice to further action and investigation by this Board, the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent's conduct prior to the entry of this Order. This Order shall be a full and final resolution by this Board of all violations and facts expressly referenced in this Order.
- 6. The Board shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Final Consent Order. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating that Respondent has violated any term of this Order, the Board reserves the right to bring disciplinary action.
- 7. Respondent enters into this Final Consent Order knowingly and voluntarily and acknowledges that there have been no other representations or agreements not stated in writing herein.

STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

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By:

David Bertone, PT Board Chairman

I represent that I have carefully read and considered this Final Consent Order, understand its terms, agree to comply with said terms and consent to the entry of the Order by the Board.

Danny O. Steffens, PT

Dated:

Consent to the form of this Final Consent Order and to the entry of this Order by the Board.

Patrick M. Metz, Asq.
Counsel for Mr. Steffens

Dated:

11/22/2024