

IN THE MATTER OF ELANA URIE

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BEFORE THE MARYLAND
BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY PRACTICE

License Number: A02980

Case Number: 2023-004

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

On October 3, 2022 the Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice (the "Board") received a written complaint regarding the conduct of Elana Urie (the "Respondent"). The complaint alleged an inappropriate relationship between the Respondent and a patient that occurred while the patient was in the Respondent's care.

Based on the Board's investigation into the Respondent's conduct, including considering the Respondent's own written statement, the Board voted to offer a Consent Order of Suspension to the Respondent in lieu of issuing Charges for violating the Maryland Occupational Therapy Practice Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("H.O.") §§10-101 *et seq.* As a result of that offer the Respondent and the Board agreed to the following Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds that:

1. On August 11, 2021 the Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice (the "Board") issued the Respondent) a license to practice as an Occupational Therapy Assistant in the State of Maryland, License Number A02980.

2. In December 2021 patient B.H. was admitted to University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopedic Institute.
3. The Respondent was responsible for bathing, feeding and changing B.H. as part of her duties as an Occupational Therapy Assistant.
4. The Respondent and B.H. began a romantic relationship while B.H. was a patient at University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopedic Institute and in the Respondent's care.
5. The Respondent sent text messages to B.H. during their romantic relationship asking B.H. to keep their relationship secret.
6. B.H. purchased a gift for the Respondent as part of their ongoing romantic relationship.
7. In April 2022 B.H. was no longer a patient at Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopedic Institute and began living with the Respondent in the Respondent's home.
8. At the end of April 2022 the Respondent and B.H. were no longer living together.
9. On October 3, 2022 the Board received a complaint regarding the romantic relationship between B.H. and Respondent.
10. The Board notified the Respondent about the pending complaint and requested a written response.
11. In the Respondent's written response the Respondent admitted to engaging in a relationship with B.H. while B.H. was a patient.
12. In the Respondent's written response the Respondent admitted to accepting a gift from B.H. and admitted she should not have accepted the gift.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §10-315 which allows the Board to “suspend or revoke a license if the...holder....”

“(5) Violates any rule or regulation of the Board, including any code of ethics adopted by the Board....”

The Board concludes that the Respondent violated the following regulation of the Board:

Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) 10.46.02.02 “Sexual Misconduct”:

A. The licensee shall avoid a relationship or an activity with the client that interferes with professional judgment and objectivity.

B. The licensee may not:

(1) Exploit the client sexually, physically, emotionally, socially, or in another manner; or

(2) Engage in sexual misconduct which includes, but is not limited to, sexual behavior with the client or patient:

(a) Regardless of whether the behavior occurs in the context of a professional evaluation, treatment, procedure, or other service to the client or patient, or

(b) Under the pretense of diagnostic or therapeutic intent or benefit

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the license of the Respondent to practice as an Occupational Therapy Assistant in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent will be placed on a **PERIOD OF PROBATION FOR A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS** from the date the Respondent resumes the practice of occupational therapy and until the Respondent complies with the terms and conditions set forth in this order; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent provide to the Board written notification **PRIOR** to the Respondent's resumption of the practice of occupational therapy; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall provide any and all occupational therapy employers with a copy of this Order during the probationary period; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall ensure that any occupational therapy employers notify the Board in writing that the employer has received a copy of this Order and it is further

ORDERED that during the probationary period the Respondent shall successfully complete a Board-approved ethics course, which shall not count towards the contact hours of competency activities required for continued licensure; and it is further

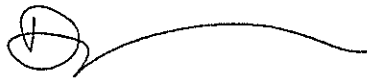
ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of probation, the Board will offer the Respondent an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board and may impose any sanctions which it may have imposed in this matter, including any probationary terms and conditions, reprimand, suspension, revocation and/or monetary penalty; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent may petition for a termination of probation after successfully compiling with the conditions of probation and has no outstanding complaints before the Board. The Respondent's probation will be terminated through a Public Order from the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Occupational Therapy Practice Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§10-101 *et seq.*, and all Federal and State laws and regulations governing the practice of occupational therapy in Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with the Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is considered a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to
Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§4-101 et seq.

1/18/2023
Date

Daniel Martin, Board Chair
Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

CONSENT

By this Consent, I acknowledge that I have read this Consent Order in its entirety and I hereby admit the truth of the Findings of Fact, and accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to legal counsel authorized to practice law in Maryland, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to request subpoenas for witnesses, to call witnesses on my own behalf, to introduce testimony and evidence on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law. I waive these rights, as well as any appeal rights under Maryland Code Annotated, State Government Article § 10-222.

I sign this Consent Order after having an opportunity to consult with an attorney, voluntarily and without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, terms, and effect of this Consent Order.

1.11.23
Date
Elana Urie, Lic. # A02980
Elana Urie, License Number A02980

NOTARIZATION

STATE OF MARYLAND
CITY/COUNTY of Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 12 day of January, 2023, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, ELANA URIE personally appeared, and declared and affirmed under penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

Nicole Biles
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 11.10.24

