

**IN THE MATTER OF  
RAMONA EDWARDS  
APPLICANT**

**\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
\* BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
\* EXAMINERS  
\* Investigation Number: 09-53**

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONSENT ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT**

**HISTORY**

On or about October 28, 2008, Romana Edwards applied to the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the "Board") for reinstatement of her physical therapist assistant license. On her application, Ms. Edwards answered "yes" to the question "Have you committed a criminal act to which you pled guilty or nolo contendere or for which you were convicted or received probation before judgment?" Ms. Edwards answered "yes" to the question "Have you committed an offense involving alcohol or controlled dangerous substances to which you pled guilty or nolo contendere or for which you were convicted or received probation before judgment?" Ms. Edwards also answered "yes" to the question "Have you engaged in any form of alcohol or substance abuse?"

Thereafter, the Board obtained credible information indicating Ms. Edwards has a criminal history involving drug use. On January 5, 2009 the Board instructed Ms. Edwards to undergo a mental evaluation to determine whether she has a mental condition that may adversely affect her ability to practice as a physical therapy assistant.

On July 30, 2009, a pre-charge Case Resolution Conference ("CRC") was held before members of the Board to consider whether to reinstate Ms. Edwards' license. The Board and Ms. Edwards have agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Ms. Edwards submitted to a mental evaluation by a board-appointed psychologist on April 22, 2009 and May 22, 2009. The psychologist's evaluation found that Ms. Edwards could return safely to practicing limited physical therapy under certain conditions, most of which have been incorporated into the terms of this Order.
2. Ms. Edwards completed a one-year rehabilitation program for her drug and alcohol addiction in 2005 and has remained compliant with her treatment regimen.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Ms. Edwards has sufficiently demonstrated that she is capable of practicing as a physical therapist assistant in a safe and ethical manner under the terms and conditions outlined in this Order.

### **ORDER**

Based on an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, it is this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009, hereby:

**ORDERED** that Ms. Edward's physical therapy assistant license be reinstated, *PROVIDED THAT MS. EDWARDS FIRST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE* the following:

1. The national licensing examination; and
2. The Maryland Physical Therapy Jurisprudence Exam. *Passed 9/24/09*

**ORDERED** that upon reinstatement, Ms. Edwards' license shall be immediately placed on PROBATION for a minimum of THREE (3) YEARS, subject to the following conditions:

1. Ms. Edwards shall be subject to random enhanced urine screens for controlled dangerous drugs and alcohol twice a month as directed by the Board and conducted at a CLIA-certified laboratory for at least the first year of her probation. Ms. Edwards shall submit to urinalysis within 24 hours of notice from the Board to do so. All results shall be negative for drugs and alcohol;
2. Upon one year of negative urinalysis results, Ms. Edwards shall be subject to random urine screens once a month as directed by the Board for the second year of her probation;
3. Ms. Edwards shall not practice in a home care setting;
4. Ms. Edwards shall practice under the "direct supervision" of a Board-approved physical therapist supervisor pursuant to the definition of that term in COMAR 10.38.01.B.(6); and be it further,
5. Ms. Edwards shall consult with a Board-approved PTA mentor to assist with her re-entry into the practice of limited physical therapy; and
6. Ms. Edwards shall ensure both her PT practice supervisor and PTA mentor provide quarterly progress reports (i.e. every 3 months) to the Board; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that Ms. Edwards shall remain compliant with her rehabilitation regimen; and be it further;

**ORDERED** that if the Board receives credible evidence that Ms. Edwards has relapsed, Ms. Edwards shall be immediately summarily suspended with an opportunity for a post-deprivation show cause hearing; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that Ms. Edwards shall completely abstain from the use of alcohol, controlled dangerous substances, and mood altering drugs and that if she is prescribed any controlled dangerous substances or mood altering medications, she will notify the Board immediately and cause a copy of said prescription to be served on the Board within three (3) days. Ms. Edwards shall show this Order to any health care provider who prescribes for her, including but not limited to, dentists, physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that Ms. Edwards execution of this Consent Order shall constitute a release to the Board of any and all medical health reports, substance abuse treatment and attendance records, and psychological/psychiatric records pertaining to Ms. Edwards; and be it further

**ORDERED** that Ms. Edwards shall at all times cooperate with the Board in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of her compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and be it further,

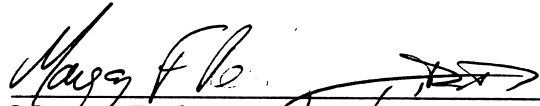
**ORDERED** that if Ms. Edwards fails to follow any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, such failure shall be deemed a Violation of Probation and of this Consent Order, and the Board may take any action that it deems appropriate under the Act, including but not limited to suspension or revocation, provided said violation is proven by a preponderance of the evidence; and it is further

**ORDERED** that Ms. Edwards may petition the Board for modification of the terms of this Order after two (2) years provided that she has been fully compliant with all of the terms of her probation and has no outstanding complaints against her; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that Ms. Edwards may petition the Board for release from probation after three (3) years provided that she has been fully compliant with all of the terms of her probation and has no outstanding complaints against her; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and as such is a public document pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article, § 10-617(h).


October 20, 2009  
Date

  
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Margery Rodgers, PT, Chairperson  
Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

**CONSENT**

1. By signing this Consent, I hereby admit to the truth of the findings contained herein and agree to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.
2. By this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
3. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter and enforce this Consent Order.
4. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily, after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

September 21, 2009  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ramona Edwards

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**COUNTY/CITY OF** Baltimore :

I hereby certify that on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of Sept., 2009, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared RAMONA EDWARDS, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her voluntary act and deed.

Linda Whyte  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: 8-01-2010