

Michael Hickman, PTA  
7204 Rock Hall Road  
Rock Hall, Maryland 21661

May 26, 2015  
Date

John F. Baker, PT, DScPT, Chair  
Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Re: Surrender of License to Practice Limited Physical Therapy  
License No. A2487  
Case No. PT 14-19

Dear Dr. Baker and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that I have decided to surrender my license to practice limited physical therapy in the State of Maryland, License Number A2487. I understand that the decision to surrender my license means that I may not practice physical therapy or limited physical therapy, with or without supervision and/or compensation, or otherwise engage in the practice of physical therapy or limited physical therapy in Maryland as they are defined in the Maryland Physical Therapy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 13-101 *et seq.* In other words, I understand that the surrender of my license means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender. I understand that this Letter of Surrender shall become effective immediately upon the date of acceptance by the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the "Board").

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a PUBLIC document and upon the Board's acceptance and execution, becomes a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

My decision to surrender my license to practice limited physical therapy in Maryland has been prompted by an investigation of my license by the Board and by my desire to leave the physical therapy profession. In lieu of proceeding with disciplinary action by the Board, I have decided to surrender my license to practice limited physical therapy in Maryland.

I acknowledge that the Board initiated an investigation into this matter following a complaint filed with the Board on December 13, 2013. The Board's investigation into my misconduct could have resulted in charges under the Act for engaging in inappropriate billing practices and maintaining false and/or insufficient documentation.

Specifically, the Board could have charged me with the following violations under § 13-316 of the Act:

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 13-317 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a license or restricted license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or holder of a restricted license, place any license or holder of a restricted license on probation, or suspend or revoke a license or restricted license if the applicant, licensee, or holder:

(12) Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of physical therapy or limited physical therapy;

(14) Submits a false statement to collect a fee; [or]

(20) Violates any provision of this title or rule or regulation adopted by the Board[.]

The Board could have further charged me with violating the following standards of practice set forth in regulations promulgated by the Board, Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 10, Subtitle 38, Chapter 3:

.02 Standards of Practice.

B. Physical Therapists Assistants.

(1) The physical therapist assistant shall:

(b) Exercise sound judgment and adequate care in the performance of duties; [and]

(h) (ii) Provide each patient with adequate treatment time consistent with accepted standards in physical therapy care.

.02-1 Requirements for Documentation.

C. The physical therapist assistant shall document the patient's chart each time the patient is seen by the physical therapist assistant following the physical therapist's initial evaluation or reevaluation by including the following . . . .

E. Ongoing Communications. Both the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant shall document ongoing communication between the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant regarding changes in a patient's status and treatment plan.



I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid prosecution under the Act and to resolve this matter. I acknowledge that if the Board were to issue charges against me, the Office of the Attorney General could prove by a preponderance of the evidence at an administrative hearing that I violated the Act as set forth above.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender, I am waiving any right to contest any charges that could issue from the Board's investigative findings in a formal evidentiary hearing at which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal.

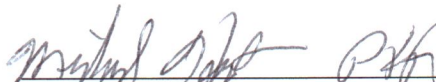
I understand that the Board will advise the National Practitioner Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender, and in response to any inquiry, will advise that I have surrendered my license in lieu of disciplinary action under the Act. I understand that this Letter of Surrender will be posted on the Board's website along with all other formal disciplinary actions. I understand that, in the event that I apply for licensure in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, this Letter of Surrender, and all underlying investigative documents, may be released by the Board to the same extent as a Final Order that would result from disciplinary action pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.* Finally, I understand that this Letter of Surrender is considered disciplinary action by the Board.

I affirm that enclosed with this Letter of Surrender is my original Maryland physical therapist assistant's license, License No. A2487, and my most recent wallet-sized renewal card.

I understand that I may not petition the Board to have my license reinstated for a minimum of three (3) years following the effective date of this Letter of Surrender. I understand that before my license may be reinstated, I must comply with the minimum licensure requirement for reinstatement, including fees and possible reexamination. In the event that I apply for reinstatement to practice limited physical therapy, I fully understand that the Board has full and absolute discretion to grant or deny my application for reinstatement. If the Board does grant my petition for reinstatement, I understand that the Board, in its sole discretion, will set terms and conditions that shall apply to my receiving a reinstated Maryland license, including but not limited to a probationary period and conditions. I also understand that if I petition for reinstatement I bear the burden of demonstrating to the Board that I am competent to practice limited physical therapy and possess good moral character, as specified in §§ 13-302 and 13-312 of the Act. I understand that if I determine that I would like to once again practice in Maryland, I will approach the Board in the same posture as one whose license has been revoked for violation of the Act.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. Finally, I wish to make clear that I have been advised and given an opportunity to consult with an attorney before signing this Letter of Surrender. I fully understand both the nature of the Board's actions and this Letter of Surrender. I acknowledge that I understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms and effect of this Letter of Surrender. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

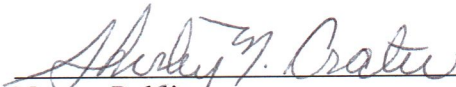
I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury and upon personal knowledge that the contents of the foregoing Letter are true:

  
Michael Hickman, PTA

STATE OF MARYLAND  
COUNTY/CITY OF Kent:

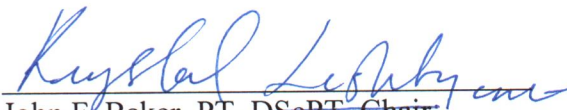
I hereby certify that on this 26 day of May, 2015, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared MICHAEL HICKMAN, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Letter of Surrender was his voluntary act and deed.



  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: 9/2/18

#### ACCEPTANCE

On behalf of the Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, on this 2 day of June, 2015, I accept the PUBLIC SURRENDER of the license to practice limited physical therapy in the State of Maryland held by Michael Hickman.

  
John F. Baker, PT, DScPT, Chair  
Maryland Board of  
Physical Therapy Examiners  
Krystal Liguery, PT, CHAIRMAN